



Mr Deepak Raj Gupta MLA

Ms Joy Burch MLA
Speaker
Legislative Assembly GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Madam Speaker

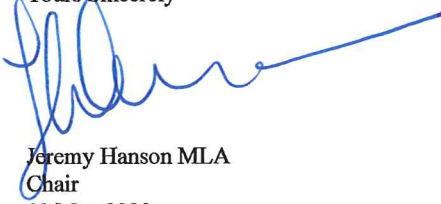
I refer to your letter of 14 April 2020 regarding consideration by the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure of recommendations on committee structure contained in the *Inquiry into the Review of the Performance of the Three Branches of Government in the Australian Capital Territory against Latimer House Principles*.

The Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 13 May 2020 and wishes to make the following comments regarding each of the proposed areas for review:

- *the language used should be sharpened by referring to scrutiny of the Executive and investigation of public policy matters.* The Committee has no objection to this proposal.
- *Greater use should be made of standing committees for the examination of bills:* The Committee strongly agrees that committees should play a greater role in the examination of bills. Were bills to be automatically referred to committee there would need to be a mechanism for committees to inform the Assembly within a set timeframe that they do not intend to inquire into a particular bill. There would also need to be an established timeframes for committees to complete any inquiries into bills, in order to enable the timely passage of legislation.
- *standing committees should more explicitly reflect directorates and be clearly subject matter committees.* The Committee is happy to support clear subject matter committees but does not believe that this equates to explicitly reflecting directorates. Some directorates contain a wide range of not necessarily related functions. Nor would it be appropriate for executive decisions on machinery of government changes to determine which committee had oversight of individual issues.
- *some subjects incorporated in committee titles that are not given obvious attention in committee activity should be dropped.* The Committee does not feel this applies to this committee and so has no comment.
- *some select committee activity might be incorporated in standing committees.* The Committee acknowledges that this may at times be the case but that the establishment of a select committee is a decision of the Assembly made after considering the relevant factors at the time.
- *the work of estimates committees should become part of standing committees.* The Committee strongly opposes this proposal. The Committee believes that having the estimates process conducted by standing committees would result in a lack of oversight of the budget as a whole. The Select Committee on Estimates hears from all areas of government affected by the budget and so can make comment on the budget in its entirety.

Thank you for this opportunity for the committee to comment on this process.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Hanson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeremy Hanson MLA
Chair
13 May 2020

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